

expected to create efficiencies and cost savings for U.S. trademark owners registering and maintaining trademarks abroad.

Ratification of the Treaty is in the best interests of the United States. I recommend, therefore, that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 3, 2007.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 4. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

May 4, 2007

President Bush. Now, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you. Welcome back. Every time I visit with the Prime Minister of our friend Singapore, we have a strategic dialog.

And today I talked to Prime Minister Lee about America's desire to stay in close contact with not only Singapore but our partners in what we call the ASEAN nations—those would be Southeast Asian nations.

To this end, the Prime Minister has invited me and I've accepted an invitation to go back to Singapore to talk to our partners and friends about trade and security, and we'll do so on my way to the APEC meetings in Australia.

Prime Minister Lee. Yes, in September.

President Bush. So thanks for the invitation in September. That's right.

We talked about a lot of issues. We talked about our bilateral relations, which are very strong, and thank you for your leadership on that issue. We talked about Iraq and Afghanistan. I thank the Singaporean Government and the people of Singapore for supporting a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, which will help that—the people of that young democracy realize a brighter future. It's a strong commitment, Mr. Prime Minister. And I also thank you for the mis-

sions and the help you've provided to the people of Iraq.

We talked about the Iranian issue. We, of course, talked about North Korea. Now, there is no better person to talk about the Far East with than Prime Minister Lee. He's got a very clear vision about the issues, the complications, and the opportunities.

And so I welcome you back, and thanks so much for the amount of time that you're willing to give.

Prime Minister Lee. Well, thank you, President Bush. We had a very good discussion. Our bilateral ties between Singapore and America are in very good repair, so we spent very little time discussing that. But I thanked the President for the steadfastness and resolve with which he's tackling the very complicated problems in the Middle East and Iraq as well as the Israel-Palestinian issue.

It's critical for us in Southeast Asia that America does that and that the President continues to give strong leadership on that because it affects America's standing in Asia and the world and also the security environment in Asia, because extremists, the jihadists, watch carefully what's happening in the Middle East and take heart or lose heart depending on what's happening there.

We discussed America's relations in Asia, with China, with Japan, Korea. Those two are important to Southeast Asia because they set the context within which Southeast Asia can prosper. And good relations between America and the major countries, China and Japan, are critical because the Southeast Asian countries want to be friends with both and do not want to have to choose sides with either.

Within Southeast Asia, I encouraged the President to deepen and strengthen the already good ties with—between the Southeast Asian countries, ASEAN, and America, both as a group and also bilaterally, individually with single countries. The President is going to come to Singapore for the commemorative 30th anniversary meeting of the dialog between ASEAN and the United States. And I suggested to the President that we should consider suitable new initiatives which perhaps would be able to take our relations another step forward.

But overall, the relations are in good repair. More can and will be done. But I look forward to deepening and strengthening not just relations but also the friendship between our two countries.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Lee. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:03 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 4, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. *Sientese.* [Laughter] *Bienvenidos.* Thank you for coming. Welcome to *El Jardín de las Rosas*. It's a great place to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. As a matter of fact, I've been looking forward to celebrating this so much that we decided to have our own *cuatro de Mayo*. [Laughter]

Thanks for coming. Welcome. I'm honored to celebrate this important holiday with you all. On Cinco de Mayo, we remember our close friendship with Mexico and we honor and remember the many contributions Mexican Americans have made to our Nation.

I'm sorry Laura couldn't be here. She's coming back from having camped out in a national park with high school classmates. I'm honored to be here with the Attorney General of the United States, *mi amigo*, Alberto Gonzales, *y tambien* the Secretary of Commerce, Carlos Gutierrez, *y su esposa*, Edi. I'm glad to be here with Dr. Emilio Gonzalez, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Gloria. I appreciate my friend Emilio Estefan for arranging this entertainment here in the Rose Garden. I welcome the Ambassador to—Mexico, Arturo. *Bienvenidos.* I'm glad you're here. Thanks for coming.

As you can see, I'm standing up here with a mariachi band, initially from Monterrey, Mexico—Los Hermanos Mora Arriaga. Wel-

come. Brothers and sisters—I think you told me you had 13 brothers and—

Audience member. Fifteen.

The President. —15 brothers and sisters. [Laughter] We believe in family values. [Laughter]

I want to thank those who wear the uniform of the United States. Thank you for serving.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates a great Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla. On May 5th, 1862, an outnumbered band of Mexican soldiers held their ground against a professional European army. They triumphed against overwhelming odds. The victory inspired Mexican patriots in their heroic fight for liberty and for democracy. Cinco de Mayo is a joyful day in Mexican history, and it's an important milestone in the history of freedom.

The people of the United States are proud to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with our Mexican neighbors. Our two countries continue to stand for the principles that the Mexican Army defended at Puebla. We believe that democracy represents the true will of people. We believe that freedom is God's gift to every man, woman, and child on the face of this Earth. And we believe that both our nations have a responsibility to share the blessings of liberty.

The United States and Mexico are bound by strong family ties. Mexican Americans have enriched our culture by sharing their musical and artistic talents. They've strengthened our economy by opening new businesses and expanding trade. And they have made our Nation more hopeful by leading lives of faith and family.

Mexican Americans have also defended the United States by wearing our Nation's uniform. Today, Mexican Americans in uniform answered the call to advance the cause of liberty, and this Nation is really grateful for your service and your sacrifice.

The patriotism of Mexican Americans reminds us that one of our greatest strengths is the character and diversity of our Nation's immigrants. Immigration has made our land a great melting pot of talent and ideas. It has made America a beacon of hope for people in search of a better life.